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ABSTRACT

This unit of study (for grades 5 and up) on George Washington, the first President of the United States, was prepared by the Mount Vernon Ladies Association. The unit contains three main elements: (1) 14 diverse classroom activities involving the use of various documents and supplements that can be adapted as primary sources; (2) the document descriptions (a list of each document included in the unit with a brief description, a synopsis of its historical significance to the unit's theme, and a specific reference); and (3) the documents themselves. A list of additional resources for both teachers and students also is included. Use of the Activities section of the unit allows students to practice the following skills and strategies: collecting, organizing, interpreting, and weighing the significance of factual evidence to achieve a systematic analysis of documents; comparing and contrasting evidence from different sources; identifying factual information and separating it from opinion; identifying points of view and biases; and developing defensible inferences, conclusions, and generalizations from factual evidence. (BT)

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